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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A REGIONAL PROJECT OF
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

IPF:(1992-96) $11 090 000
(RLA/91/G31) - Patagonian Coastal Management Plan

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	24 March 1993
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Proposed implementing agency:	Fundacion Patagonia Natural
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$2 800 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$2 800 000

Project background

The coast of Patagonia is one of the longest remaining stretches of relatively pristine coast and spectacular wildlife in the world. Stretching nearly 3,000 km, the area is comprised of beaches, cliffs, islands, points, and bays washed by a cold marine current whose nutrients support great schools of fish, squid and other wildlife. Characterized by its enormous biomass and the interdependent relationship of its sea mammals, birds, marine fishes, and invertebrates, the Patagonian coastal zone is one of the temperate areas of the world most vulnerable to long-term global change.

This seaboard is also one of the most biologically productive coastal ecosystems in the world and of great economic importance to Argentina. Much of Patagonia's revenue is based on the use of the coastal resources by fishing, tourism and oil production. The southwest Atlantic fishery has become the fastest growing commercial fishery on earth; the spectacular aggregations of Magellanic penguins, right whales, elephant seals and sea lions have converted Patagonia into a world class focus for ecotourism; and two mostly on-shore oil producing areas supply part of the region's revenue. Yet, at the present time, the Patagonian coastal zone is neither understood nor managed as the single interdependent, integrated ecosystem it really is. To undertake coastal management in Patagonia, UNDP assistance was requested under the present approval.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to preserve Patagonia's bioadversity by ensuring the sustainable management of its coastal resources through the development of a Patagonian Coastal Management Plan. By strengthening institutions, developing human resources and contributing valuable environmental information for decision-making related to management, the project will enhance existing capacities, integrate effective government

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

action and facilitate a broad-based community commitment to sustaining the biological diversity of this productive, economically important and interdependent ecosystem.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) strengthen management techniques and legislation on coastal resources for biodiversity protection; (b) establish a participatory process involving the three Provinces, the general public and private enterprise, coordinating information among the different sectors within each provincial administration and with other technical areas of the project, in the development of a functional and regularly updated management plan for the Pantagonian coastal zone; (c) strengthen the institutional, technical and managerial capacities of agencies involved in coastal resource management, along with the continuous provision of regularly updated data to resource administrations; and (d) increase community participation in planning discussions for the sustainable management of coastal resources.

Project activities will generate: (1) precise and updated information on existing coastal biodiversity and natural resource use in the Patagonian Coast; (2) zoning charts depicting biologically sensitive areas, with recommendations for minimizing impacts; (3) complete review of the legislative framework guiding coastal resources, with recommendations for effective legislation and regulations concerning biodiversity protection and resource management; (4) a Coastal Management Plan; (5) recommendations for a multi-sectoral, interprovincial Coastal Zone Management Unit to oversee coastal management; (6) sustained revenue generating strategies for resource conservation by government and NGO's; (7) procedures for reducing the impact of development activities on biodiversity (e.g. fishing, tourism, seaweed and guano harvesting, oil urban and industrial pollution mitigation); (8) trained personnel in agencies responsible for coastal zone management; (9) an accessible data base centralizing all existing information and on-going research on coastal resources and their interactions with economic activities; (10) upgraded monitoring systems for improved law enforcement; (11) greater public awareness of the importance of protecting coastal biodiversity; and (12) active community participation in coastal zone management and planning.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a subcontract for six work-months of international expertise to assess options for revenue-generation strategies for long-term biodiversity protection, 308 work-months of national experts in the fields of wildlife, fisheries, tourism, pollution and education, 110 work-months of in-country training in wildlife, tourism and fisheries management, and pollution monitoring; personnel for external evaluations; equipment and support costs by OPS.

Financial data

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Personnel	100 000
Subcontract	2 204 900
Equipment	257 400
F.O. support costs	79 300
OPS support costs	158 500
Total	2 800 000

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